

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
CINCEUR
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ELAB, PINT, TU
SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN TURK-IS CALL FOR GENERAL
STRIKE

REF: ANKARA 5500 (DTG 221010Z JUL 77)

1. IN RESPONSE TO TURK-IS PRESIDENT HALIL TUNC'S CALL FOR
A GENERAL STRIKE (REFTEL), ON JULY 29, KEMAL TURKLER,
PRESIDENT OF TURK-IS'S LEFTIST RIVAL, DISK (CONFEDERATION
OF REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS UNIONS), PROPOSED THAT DISK, TURK-IS,
AND "DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS" (PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS,
SOCIETIES, AND "PROGRESSIVE" YOUTH MOVEMENTS) UNITE TO FORM
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A NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT TO OPPOSE THE NEW DEMIREL
COALITION GOVERNMENT. TURKLER ADMITTED THAT DISK AND
TURK-IS HAVE WIDELY DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW ON MANY
POLITICAL AND LABOR QUESTIONS, BUT HE PROPOSED THAT IN
OPPOSITION TO THE NEW NATIONAL FRONT, TURK-IS AND DISK
HAVE COMMON GROUND UPON WHICH TO BEGIN TO BUILD A CLOSER
RELATIONSHIP.

2. AS SOON AS THE DEMIREL COALITION GOVERNMENT WON ITS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ON AUGUST 1, TURK-IS PRESIDENT TUNC CALLED AN EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE FIVE-MAN EXECUTIVE BOARD OF TURK-IS TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF A GENERAL STRIKE. AT THAT MEETING, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AGREED TO AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE TURK-IS MANAGEMENT BOARD ON AUGUST 9, WHEN DETAILS OF THE GENERAL STRIKE PLAN WILL BE "ARGUED". TUNC TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE WILL MAKE HIS PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE ISSUE KNOWN ON AUGUST 5, AND THAT TURKLER'S PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT WILL BE EVALUATED DURING THE AUGUST 9 MEETING.

3. THE CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE HAS GENERATED WIDESPREAD COMMENT FROM POLITICIANS, EMPLOYERS AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. PRIMIN DEMIREL, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, CLAIMS THAT A GENERAL STRIKE IS AN ILLEGAL ACT UNDER THE CONSTITUTION AND THOSE WHO PROPOSE SUCH AN ACT SHOULD BE PROSECUTED. THE CONFEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS UNIONS (TISK) SAID THAT THEY ARE MAKING PREPARATIONS TO REACT STRONGLY IF A STRIKE TAKES PLACE. TISK HAS ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE DEMIREL COALITION WON ITS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. AFTER A MEETING WITH PRIMIN DEMIREL AUGUST 3, THE GENERAL PRESIDENT OF TISK, HALIT NARIN, ANNOUNCED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION CONTINUES TO OPPOSE THE STRIKE AND HAS A GENERAL PLAN FOR ACTION AGAINST PARTICIPATING STRIKERS. SOME SUPPORT HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN EXPRESSED FOR FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT BY INDIVIDUAL LABOR UNIONS OR THEIR LEADERS AND MANY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS. SOME ADDITIONAL SUPPORT HAS ALSO BEEN DECLARED FOR THE GENERAL STRIKE BY SMALL UNIONS WHO HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY STATED A POSITION. HOWEVER, CONSERVATIVE UNIONS, MOST OF WHICH ARE AFFILIATED WITH MISK, HAK-IS, AND SOME UNIONS IN TURK-IS, HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY OPPOSE THE STRIKE AND THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT.

4. EMBOFF IN MEETING WITH REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER THIS WEEK DISCUSSED THE GENERAL STRIKE CALL. THE RPP SOURCE, WHO IS A LAWYER BY TRAINING AND REPRESENTS THE RPP IN MANY CIVIL AND CRIMINAL MATTERS, STATED THAT BECAUSE A GENERAL STRIKE TECHNICALLY VIOLATES THE TURKISH CONSTITUTION, TURK-IS GENERAL PRESIDENT TUNC IS PLANNING TO PROPOSE A NATIONAL WORK STOPPAGE OF TWO TO THREE HOURS INSTEAD OF A GENERAL STRIKE. NOT ONLY WOULD A GENERAL STRIKE BE DIFFICULT TO ORGANIZE, BUT TUNC AND HIS ADVISORS REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THAT A WORK STOPPAGE IN ISRAEL WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL RECENTLY. FURTHERMORE, THIS MORE LIMITED PROTEST WOULD SERVE TO PUT ACROSS THE TURK-IS MESSAGE WHILE PROBABLY PROTECTING TUNC FROM CRIMINAL

PROSECUTION.

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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